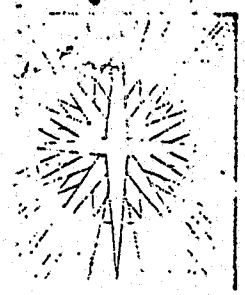
pt 2 of 3 SCS



PEOPLES TEMPLE

OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Jim Jones,
Pastor

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
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"For I was an hungered
and ye gave me meat:
I was thirsty
and ye gave me drink;
I was a stranger
and ye took me in;
Naked, and ye clothed me;
I was sick and ye visited me;
I was in prison,
and ye came unto me.

"Then shall the righteous
Answer him, saying,
When saw we thee an hungered
And fed thee?
Or thirsty,
And gave thee drink?
When saw we thee a stranger
And took thee in?
...ked, and clothed thee
Or when saw we thee sick?
Or in prison,
And came unto thee?

"Verily I say unto you,
Inasmuch as ye have done it
Unto one of the least of these...
...Ye have done it unto me"

Matthew 25:35-40.

Dear Friend,

In the past several months, Peoples Temple and Bishop Jim Jones have been the target of a concerted, well-coordinated effort to discredit and destroy the effectiveness and reputation of our organization. The enclosed material will detail what kind of activity is behind the barrage of negative publicity which is full of distortions and outragious lies. The sources of these 'allegations' are racists, law violators and common terrorists who were upset with the church when we did not follow their advocated course of violence. We are certain that these people are being paid for their scurrilous actions in recent months.

We have anticipated for some time that anti-progressive forces would attempt to use whatever means they could to paralyze the dynamic ministry of social and economic equality that Jim Jones has led for some twenty-five years. We also believe that the current campaign to discredit us is just the latest episode in a kind of neo-McCarthyism that has been resurgent of late in various quarters, and which has targeted black elected officials, progressive causes, and experimental communities in the United States. We know that just recently Rep. Clay of Missouri was exonerated of a series of totally baseless charges leveled at him by a hostile press, as was Lt. Governor Dymally of California (who has been strongly supportive of Bishop Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple). A book recently put together by Mary Warner of the Lt. Governor's office very aptly cites numerous examples of this type of planned harassment that black and minority elected officials in the United States have been subjected to.

On a national level, the same thing is being done to Andrew Young, United States Ambassador to the United Nations. One wonders if he will be able to maintain his position with the type of unwarranted criticism that he is getting, even from members of the black community. This singling out of an official who may be catagorized as having a progressive viewpoint is not uncommon. We witnessed it with the sensationalistic, slanted press that both Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy received, even years after their deaths.

Three who are a part of a conspiracy against Peoples Temple have reached Guyana. Obviously an attempt to discredit the church and pastor in the eyes of the public, their efforts have had little effect, using the same old trash, lies and smears—a whole library of it. People in the States know and esteem the character and commitment of Bishop

Jones. They are not fooled by the reactionary, anti-Socialist smear campaign. On the contrary, we have the total support of Dr. Carlton Goodlett, and numerous other prominent Socialist leaders throughout the States and the world. We have likewise had no criticism from within any minority community in the United States.

We have had all kinds of church and government officials visit us from both here and the United States. We will be having an open house in the near future. If you are unable to make it to the open house, we will gladly receive you any time. We have a community in which we are more positive than ever. Contrary to malicious allegations, we don't have to have corporal punishment of any kind and never have had. It is fantastic: no anti-social behavior exhibited of any kind and the highest level of medical care you can find any place in the world. The food is tremendous and many new innovative crops are being planted and successfully grown. This type of food production is helping the whole community, and this pleases us very much.

We build most of our houses now out of prefabricated material with the help of our sawmill. Our skilled craftsmen design and build our furniture and cabinets. The school at the Jonestown project is a healthy combination of work/study programs designed to let the youngsters progress at their own rate of speed, with individualized attention readily available. Our program includes an emphasis on Guyanese history and culture. The youth are also trained in a number of technical skills by competent tradesmen. At Jonestown, we make all kinds of other things that will have great utility for Guyana.

Numbers of our families have adopted Guyanese youngsters into their homes. We have integrated into the community and all community activities here, helping with school and recreational facilities. We are bringing Guyanese into this community and have a friendly, cooperative relationship with our neighbors in the area.

We wish to thank the government and people of Guyana. We could never have progressed so far so fast were it not for the total cooperation given every step of the way. We look forward to a relationship of friendship and mutual support between our mission settlers and Guyanese from every walk of life. We can only express our appreciation by trying to make our experiences useful for others engaged in similar efforts to expand and improve cultivation and development of the rich interior of Guyana Guyana, with the goal of benefiting her people.

Paula Adams
Administrative Secretary